

May 22, 1975

SENATOR GOODRICH: Senator Mahoney, on Resolution 45, which deals with private schools, I'm curious. The thing I had in mind in that particular resolution was the fact that the federal government is in the process of auditing correspondence schools and private schools across the country relative to the fraud that's going on in some of those federal loan programs and their connection with the tuition paid for private schools. I'm wondering, was that considered in your deliberations on LR 45 to encourage a study of the private schools in Nebraska?

SENATOR MAHONEY: Senator Goodrich, in answer, that's an excellent question, we did not have that information before us. You have a very good point. It is something that has come us, Senator Goodrich, relatively in the last few weeks where they are beginning to look at some of the grants and some of the funds that have been appropriated in that area. We did not have that information. In fairness to the Legislature, we had taken the action that we did and the other members of the Executive Board might give me a little of their attention. We thought that maybe the general composure of the resolution was that maybe we're getting into an area in which a Legislature interim study probably should not delve. With your new information, I can see your concern and your interest.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Members of the body, if you'll listen for a second. In the World Herald, of not last night but the night before last, there was a large article dealing with the subject of the federal government auditing, and this is all the way across the nation, the loan programs on private schools. This is the federal loans and grants for students to pay their tuition. This is a multi-million dollar fraud case that they have uncovered. It will hit Nebraska. When I saw that, knowing what I do about some of the schools, I thought we better start looking at that as far as Nebraska is concerned. For that reason I would move to approve LR 45 for a study.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, Senator Goodrich has now moved in relation to his study of the private schools concerning, as the Senators should note on their sheets, the curriculum, accreditation and tuition fees. So the Board's action was taken without this new knowledge that Senator Goodrich had. I think, Senator Goodrich, if the Legislature had known some of this information they might have taken a different look at this thing. If there are any other members of the Board who might want to discuss or spend a minute on this as to some of their feelings concerning the discussion we had yesterday afternoon.

PRESIDENT: No, his light went on late, Senator Mahoney. I'm sorry. Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. President, I had my light on before Senator Goodrich started to talk. I want to talk about another one of these resolutions. I'll wait till ... on LR 6.